OPINION 100

SUSPENSION OF RULES, *Spirifer* AND *Syringothyris*

SUMMARY.—Under Suspension of the Rules the genotype of *Spirifer* Sowerby, 1816, is fixed as *Anomia striata* Martin, and the genotype of *Syringothyris* Winchell, 1863, is fixed as *Syringothyris typa* Winchell (= *Spirifer carteri* Hall).

STATEMENT OF CASE.—Miss Helen M. Muir Wood has submitted the following case for opinion under Suspension of the Rules:

The genus *Spirifer* was first named and described by James Sowerby, Feb. 1, 1816, in Mineral Conchology, Vol. 11, p. 41. The only species mentioned is "*Spirifer cuspidatus*" [*Anomia cuspidata* of W. Martin, 1798, Trans. Linn. Soc., Vol. 4, p. 45]. In his discussion of *Spirifer* Sowerby writes: "this genus will comprehend nearly all the shells retained as *Terebratula* by Lamarck which have a triangular foramen and not a perforation at the apex of the beak as the character of that genus requires. The several individuals in which I have discovered spiral appendages bear a considerable affinity to each other. . . . ." He adds in a footnote, "I gave a paper sometime since to the Linnean Society on the construction of this tubular cartilage which almost fills the shells . . . . "

" . . . . I conceive that all those in Martin's division of *Anomitae* d. d. (Martin's outlines and p. 243) which he describes as having both valves convex and a large trigonal foramen belong to this genus and also perhaps those of his next section with a small foramen . . . . " [This refers to Petrificata Derbiensia of Martin, 1809, p. 9, and includes the following species of Martin: first, *Anomites trigonalis, triangularis, striatus, subconicus, cuspidatus;* secondly, *acutus, rotundus, glaber, resupinatus,* and *lineatus.*]

In December 1814 and February 1815 James Sowerby had read a paper before the Linnean Society entitled "Some Account of the Spiral tubes or ligaments in the genus *Terebratula* of Lamarck as observed in several species of fossil shells." This paper which did not appear in print until 1818 (Trans. Linn. Soc., Vol. 12, p. 514) contained an account and figures of the spires in *Anomia, Terebratula striata* of Martin (Petrificata Derbiensia, 1809, pl. 23, figs. 1 and 2) and is referred to in the footnote in the Mineral Conchology. Sowerby states, p. 515: "I suspect *Anomia cuspidata* . . . . with the beak of the perforated valve lengthened and reverse may have a similar construction within as well as *Anomia subconica* of Martin tab. 47." A footnote on the same page, added at the time of publication, referring to *Anomia cuspidata,* states "Figured since the reading of this paper as *Spirifer cuspidata* in Mineral Conchology tab. 120."

From the preceding it follows (1) that *Spirifer* was neither named nor diagnosed before February 1816 (Min. Conch.), (2) that the diagnostic character by which the genus was distinguished from *Terebratula* was the shape of the foramen, (3) that the possession of spires by species so distinguished was inferred in the case of *Spirifer cuspidatus,* (4) that the only species actually named as *Spirifer* was *Anomia cuspidata* Martin, which therefore is the genotype (monotypic).